

ERINDALE'S ROY IVOR

PEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY

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Naturalist Has Book Published

ERINDALE — Naturalist Roy Ivor, is author of the new book "I Live With Birds" being published this week by The Ryerson Press.

Now in his 89th year, Mr. Ivor has tended and mended birds in his Windinglane Bird Sanctuary near Erindale, for the past 40 years.

He recalls a variety of unique bird stories in the book, describing his experiences with chickadees, bluebirds, wood thrushes, and many other species.

Through these contacts he has arrived at some astonishing discoveries regarding his feathered charges.

He credits his wild birds with characteristics previously considered uniquely human.

Such traits as reasoning power, joke-playing and a need to receive and give affection are frequently exhibited by the tiny creatures.

As examples of his theories, he recalls a female bluebird who would never go to sleep

until "tucked in" for the night.

Another female, Teo, a big red-tailed hawk, who is a savage and powerful aggressor, is docile with him and always anxious for his attention.

When a Canada goose named Wanda takes a shine to visitors she will fly in front of the departing car to detain her newly-made friends.

Over the years the Windinglane Sanctuary has befriended thousands of birds in

distress. In addition to about 300 injured birds that are brought there each year, it hosts up to 100 resident birds.

The influx of young birds in the spring usually involves feeding the nestlings every 15-30 minutes for 16 hours daily.

Mr. Ivor refuses any financial payment for his work, but accepts contributions of bird food, including raw meat for the hawks and the eagles, from Canadian leading food producers.

He estimates his birds consume well over half a ton of food a year.

He first became interested in ornithology at the age of ten, when he discovered the first nest of eggs ever found of the Richardson's gull, or western pigeon hawk.

In 1928 he gave up the family stone and marble business in Toronto and established the sanctuary.

His mother, who died 13

years ago at the age of 105, kept house for him until she was 99.

Longevity runs on both sides of his family, he reports.

Mr. Ivor has had to hand-rear his birds, by special permission from the federal and provincial wildlife departments, in order to get behind their natural barrier of fear.

His resulting observations have gained him numerous awards for service in the field of wildlife and conservation.

He is also known throughout the world for his articles on bird behaviour and was recently quoted in a new book published in Russia.

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